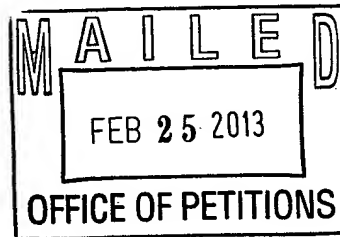




UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)



GIBBONS P.C.  
ONE GATEWAY CENTER  
NEWARK NJ 07102

In re Patent No. 6,766,040 :  
Issue Date: July 20, 2004 :  
Application No. 09/677,257 : ON PETITION  
Filed: October 2, 2000 :  
Attorney Docket No. B08369-00002 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed December 4, 2012, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued July 20, 2004. Accordingly, the 7 ½ year maintenance fee due could have been paid during the period from July 20, 2011 through January 20, 2012, or with a surcharge during the period from January 21, 2012 through July 20, 2012. This patent expired on July 21, 2012.

The regulation related to the above section of the Code, as it pertains to unintentional delay, is 37 CFR 1.378(c), which permits a patentee to reinstate an expired patent if the petition is filed within 24 months of the six-month grace period if the delay in paying the maintenance fee was unintentional.

In this instance, petitioner has filed a petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), the \$1,450.00 7 ½ year small entity maintenance fee, and the \$1,640.00 surcharge where late payment was unintentional. All of the requirements under 37 CFR 1.378(c) being met, the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of fee address (form PTO/SB/47) and a request for customer number (form PTO/SB/125) should be filed in accordance with Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, section 2540. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address on the petition. However, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3230.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shirene Willis Brantley".

Shirene Willis Brantley  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions

CC: WILLIAM A. HECTOR  
ONE PENNSYLVANIA PLAZA, 37<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
NEW YORK NY 10119-3701